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PERC

This girl says this man is a murderer



Bormann and hundreds of other top Nazis had slid along before him. Once in Bolivia he changed his name once more to Klaus Altmann, the French allege.

Unfortunately for him, his claim that Klaus Altmann was an honest German SS officer who served the Fatherland and Fuhrer during the last war, but never murdered anyone, has now been made to look a bit thin by the laborious research work done on the records by Beate Klarsfeld and her husband, aided by West German State prosecutors. They found that there are remarkable similarities between the two men.

Apart from identical facial characteristics and fingerprints, all Barbie's family, his children and his wife, have the same names and birth dates as those of Klaus Altmann, who acquired a Bolivian passport and Bolivian nationality 14 years ago. Barbie's own birth and marriage dates are the same as Altmann's.

The chief key to the identification came when the International Red Cross in Geneva, in a unique breach of its normal secrecy over identification procedures, acceded to Madame Klarsfeld's request and released the fingerprints, identity card, photograph and signature under which Altmann travelled to South America in 1951. Apart from the signature which had been changed, the details shown on the identity card corresponded with those of Klaus Barbie, Gestapo Chief.

What makes the whole affair even more involved—and could account for President Pompidou's decision to get into the act—is that the ex-Gestapo chief worked regularly for the American secret



Admittedly Altmann, but Mme Klarsfeld alleges he is the Nazi Barbie.

service as well as for the Bonn intelligence after the war. It was while working for the CIA that he was sentenced to death in France.

He is said to have handed over to the CIA for its secret files a list of prominent Frenchmen who collaborated deeply with the Gestapo during the occupation. The French were not allowed by the Americans to question Barbie in detail in Frankfurt and Munich after the war and then only in the presence of CIA men. It may have been with CIA help that he got his false Red Cross passport in 1951.

Altmann is living today in a luxury suite of a private clinic in La Paz. Bolivian police are guarding him for fear of a kidnapping attempt. Beate Klarsfeld tried such an operation against another Gestapo boss in Cologne last year, but it misfired.

The indefatigable Madame Klarsfeld has meantime won one round over a ban on her entering Bolivia in the company of the French mother of three of Barbie's victims. She was stopped at the frontier. Banzer, perhaps under the impact of President Pompidou's letter, personally lifted a police ban on them entering the country where they hope personally to identify Klaus Altmann-Barbie as the killer.

But that's all the Bolivian President would do. And the authorities have already started to put the heat on Mrs Klarsfeld. In the last few days she has been arrested three times and after being held for six hours in La Paz for "questioning" last week, she was released in the early hours of the morning.

But she is still waiting at La Paz in the hope of presenting her 16-page dossier of evidence to the Bolivian authorities. She told French officials that the Bolivian police who had held her at police headquarters fetched her from her hotel room, alleging that they were "representatives of Interpol." On the third occasion they did not question her but merely kept her incommunicado at police HQ. From this she assumed their purpose was not to obtain any further information but merely to prevent her holding an impending Press conference. Madame Klarsfeld said she has not been physically maltreated by the police. She had, however, been kept in an unheated room, and as the temperature at La Paz at this time of year is low, she had felt extremely cold. Police had refused to allow her to take exercise to get warm.

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